



March 11, 2024

Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Consortium
Minnesota Council on Disability
1600 University Avenue W, Suite 8
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Ms. Hauff,

On behalf of Proof Alliance, please accept this letter of support for the **Minnesota Respond, Innovate, Succeed, and Empower (RISE) Act, HF 4565/SF 4525.**

I write to you as the Executive Director at Proof Alliance, the Minnesota-based nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing prenatal alcohol exposure and supporting all impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). In Minnesota, 13.1% of pregnancies are exposed to alcohol. That means an estimated 8,755 babies are born with prenatal alcohol exposure each year in Minnesota. Proof Alliance is dedicated to supporting youth and families impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD). We recognize the significance of inclusive higher education opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including those with FASD, and we commend the efforts of the Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Consortium and the Minnesota Council on Disability in advocating for the MN RISE Act.

The barriers faced by college students with disabilities are concerning and highlight the urgent need for legislative action. The MN RISE Act aims to address these systematic barriers by updating existing statutes, expanding acceptable documentation for disability accommodations, and requiring institutions of higher education to adopt transparent policies regarding disability services. These measures will not only make higher education more accessible for students with disabilities but also promote their inclusion and success on college campuses.

We believe that by eliminating these barriers, the MN RISE Act will encourage more students with disabilities to pursue postsecondary education credentials, improve enrollment and completion rates, and foster a more inclusive campus environment. Additionally, the Act aligns with Proof Alliance's mission of advocating for policies and initiatives that support the well-being and success of individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause. Should you need further information or assistance from Proof Alliance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mollie O'Brien", written in a cursive style.

Mollie O'Brien, Executive Director
Proof Alliance